

The Border Tidette.

OCTOBER 9, 1920.

AN OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR THOS. CAMPBELL, CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION.

Sir:
I have just finished reading the following article from the Arizona Republican, of Phoenix, Arizona, dated September 22nd:

(Special to the Republican)

Douglas, Sept. 21.

"Before an audience estimated at 800 Governor Thos. E. Campbell tonight in no uncertain terms set forth his attitude as regards the heritage of the people of this state in the public domain at an enthusiastic mass meeting held under the auspices of the local Republican club.

"I have been criticised by some big cattlemen who do not understand my position," said the governor, "I favor a system of leasing grazing lands, but I believe those who have equities should be protected. Do you know that 1,000,000 acres of public domain are held under lease by 25 big cattlemen who have secured it under the land commissioner's plan of re-leasing before present lease expires, practically giving them this land in perpetuity, and that this land has been so re-leased without appraisal. It is a fact. And that is a condition I am opposed to. This has won me the enmity of these big cattle interests, but I know I am right and I am trying to preserve this heritage of the people for the public good. No class should expect favors from the state's chief executive. If you want that kind of governor you have an excellent opportunity now of securing one."

"This part of the Governor's address was loudly applauded. Campbell, also discussed good roads accomplishments."

I wish you would kindly explain, not only to me, but the general public, the following facts which I deem inconsistent with the quotation from your speech at Douglas as set forth in the above article:

Certain sections of state land being held under lease by the Hillman & Graves Cattle interests of Naco, Arizona, such lands being adjoining the land which I took up as a homestead, and upon which homestead, together with adjoining land which I have purchased, I operate as a dairy farm, from which I supply the City of Bisbee with milk; having come before the Land Department for lease, applications having been made for renewal by Hillman & Graves, and an application for lease having been made by me, by unanimous vote of the Land Department, in which you participated, my application was rejected and the lands ordered released to Hillman & Graves.

By your vote you assisted in perpetuating the former lease to the Hillman & Graves cattle interests, and I NOW ASK YOU TO DEFINE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CANCELLATION OF A LEASE A SHORT TIME BEFORE IT EXPIRES, AND THE RENEWAL OF SUCH LEASE TO THE SAME INTERESTS, OR WAITING A SHORT TIME FOR THE EXPIRATION OF THE LEASE, AND THEN VOTING TO RENEW IT. To my mind one is a perpetuation of a lease just the same as the other.

I do not make this a political issue inasmuch as Mit Simms, the Democratic candidate for governor, voted the same way as you, that is, to perpetuate the lease to the Hillman & Graves cattle interests, but I write you for the reason that you talk one way and vote the other, whereas, Mit Simms votes consistently for the perpetuation of leases, and does not later talk against perpetuation.

I have appealed from the action of the Land Department to the courts of the state, where I shall seek redress, but feeling that I have been deeply wronged in this matter in the preference of Mexican cattle over American babies, I do not believe that I should permit you to take one side by your actions, voting as a member of the Land Department, and then go before the public for their support on the opposite side of the question.

I shall be very glad to read your reply to this letter in the

newspapers of this state, or in a public speech before the voters of this state.

Sincerely yours,
MRS. L. L. FIKE.
Naco, Arizona.

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